

The Burgess Hill Academy Working Group

Notes of the meeting held in Council Chamber at 2.30pm, Tuesday, 20th August 2024

Present:

Councillors Diane Black, Brenda Williams, Bob Foster, Andy Stowe, Janice Henwood, Peter Williams.

School Governors: Jane Davey, Helen Lewis.

Teaching Staff: Hannah Freat, Dominique Carter.

- A letter from the UBAT Acting Chair of Trustees, Siobham Denning, was circulated and her positive content noted. Letter is to remain within the Working Group, as there is no permission to circulate wider at this time.
- In view of this perceived change in attitude, it was considered more appropriate to rename the 'Working Group' to 'Support Group', subject to approval by BHTC Full Council on 23rd September 2024. ALL AGREED.
- Current problems at the Academy were identified: Funding, Competitive schools doing better, greater support needed from community, impending OFSTED inspection may not look good.
- Structure of the Group to be as at start + Councillors Stuart Condie and Kirsty Lord to be approached to represent WSCC (Peter Williams to contact) + 3 parents + 2 extra staff (Jane Davey/Helen Lewis to contact).
- BHTC can now support the Academy through this Group, under the banner 'Our Town, Our School, Our Youth'. Seek more dialogue with UBAT Trustees.
- Academy staff needs to know about Support Group, to boost morale. Peter Williams will draft a letter and circulate to Group before presenting to staff.
- Janice Henwood offered to speak to staff at an early morning staff meeting, (date TBA).
- We need to come up with a means of providing additional IT equipment. Peter Williams will speak with Chairman of Burgess Hill Business Park Association.
- It was noted, with concern, that the new Bedelands Academy may start off in T-block at Burgess Hill Academy, a move that was bitterly opposed by staff. No room, no infrastructure, unknown timescale.

- Meetings to be publicised in some form. Reciprocal exchange with Academy's Newsletter.
- Academy will be holding an 'Open Day' event on 9th October, followed by an 'Open Evening' on 10th October, for invited guests.
- It was suggested that a delegation from the Support Group visit the school to look at infrastructure. Jane and Helen will liaise with school Head to arrange date.
- Date of next meeting to take place on Tuesday 1st October, starting 5pm in Council Chamber. Peter Williams will act as caretaker.

END